THE POD

OCTOBER 2020

Linking Soldiers to Training Worldwide

WANT MORE INFORMATION OR NEED A POD?

If you want more information about the POD Program, please contact any member of the POD Team listed below.

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If you need to request a POD, please complete the POD Request Form and send it to Mr. Frank Anderson at the email address above.

If you have a POD story you want to share, please feel free to send it to any member of the POD Team identified above.

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RECENT NEWS

DDTCs Provide Essential Training

(Original story by Rachel Christie)

While stationed in Poland, Soldiers required to begin Basic Leader Course (BLC) training were able to as a result of utilizing a DDTC. Designed for austere environments, the Deployed Digital Training Campus was highly effective in providing an environment fully sufficient in allowing Soldiers to conduct training necessary for advancement in their military careers. With a focus on a leadership foundation, the BLC course supplies non-commissioned officers (NCO) the knowledge and skills necessary to lead a team. Additionally, the course provides the same education for specialists, corporals, and sergeants entering leadership roles. The success of such training in Poland proves that DDTCs are a unique and critical capability for Soldiers stationed abroad.

COVID-19 Update & Best Practices

As we continue to navigate through a new working environment, we (with the help of our DL POCs) have developed a list of best practices aimed to help maintain and regulate health and safety concerns in our Digital Training Facilities. Some examples include:

- Maintaining social distancing by reducing maximum capacity of DTFs by 50%.
- Practicing precaution by ensuring all personnel wear face masks that cover the nose and mouth.
- Practicing sanitization by providing hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes at the entrance of each DTF (and other locations where necessary)
- Maintaining communication by establishing an open dialogue between the DTF manager, DL POC, and the DTF manager's COR.

You can view the entirety of our Best Practices, along with the list of closed DTFs, in our SharePoint portal.

Hello and Farewell

Join us as we welcome Ms. Amber Koeckritz as a new addition to the POD Team! While a new Army Civilian, Ms. Koeckritz is not new to the military bringing experience from her previous roles as a Government Contract employee for both the Air Force & Navy. Additionally, she has spent many years volunteering at Army installations worldwide and was recently chosen as the USAG Wiesbaden Family Member Volunteer of the Year in 2019. She is married to an active-duty Airman and they together have two daughters, Samantha, a 4th grade teacher in Texas, and Alexa, who attends Grafton High School. And if that weren't enough, Ms. Koeckritz has been, and continues to hold a role as a Professor of Communication in the Virginia Collegiate system. Please give her a warm welcome as she brings her knowledge, expertise, and experience to the team.

We would also like to extend a farewell to our now-retired team member, Ms. Deborah Billups. We thank her for her years of service, extensive knowledge, and support that she has provided to the POD Team. Her influence will carry on!

DID YOU KNOW?

DVD Termination Memo

The POD program has historically provided computers and laptops with DVD/CD capability to support instructors and Active/Reserve Soldiers who did not have consistent access to training and education materials through other means. With increased access to high-speed Internet, digital repositories, mobile devices, and cloud storage, the industry is producing fewer computers/laptops with DVD/CD capability, making them harder to find and more expensive to purchase. Additionally, Soldiers and instructors now have a lesser need for the capability.

Beginning 1 Jul 20, the POD Program, which falls under the Army Capability Manager Army Training Information System (ACM ATIS), will no longer purchase computers or laptops with DVD/CD capability for DDTCs, DTFs, or MDTFs. The guidance specifically stated that 1) commands and stakeholders that currently have the capability will retain until the next tech refresh; 2) those locations that have recently received a tech refresh, or are scheduled to receive one before the end of FY20, will retain the capability until the next refresh in five years or sooner, as the Army dictates; and 3) those locations that have not yet been scheduled for a tech refresh will not have the DVD/CD capability when the new computers or laptops are installed.

Any location requiring a waiver from this guidance must submit their written request with justification for retaining the DVD/CD capability to Mr. Frank Anderson, POD Program Lead, at frank.h.anderson2.civ@mail.mil, and Mr. Marty Hartfiel, Product Development ATIS, at martin.k.hartfiel.civ@mail.mil.